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# *RELEASE NOTES*

## *N-FOCUS INTERIM RELEASE*

### *January 9, 2011*

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An interim release of the N-FOCUS system is being implemented on January 9, 2011. Interim Releases are made between scheduled major releases. The last N-FOCUS Major Release was November 14, 2010. The next N-FOCUS Major Release is scheduled for March 20, 2011. This document provides information explaining new functionality, enhancements and problem resolutions effective with this release. The Release Notes are divided into five main sections:

- ◆ **General Interest and Mainframe:** All N-FOCUS users should read this section.
- ◆ **Developmental Disabilities Programs:** N-FOCUS users who work directly with DD programs and those who work with the related Medicaid cases should read this section. Note: this section will only appear if there are enhancements, tips, or fixes specific to DD programs.
- ◆ **Foster Care Review Board:** N-FOCUS users with responsibility for Foster Care Review Board functions should read this section. Note: This section will only appear when there are tips, enhancements or fixes specific to Foster Care Review Board functions.
- ◆ **Protection and Safety Programs:** N-FOCUS users with responsibility for Child Protective or Adult Protective Services should read this section. It will be noted when the information is specific to only one of these areas.
- ◆ **Expert System:** N-FOCUS users responsible for case entry for AABD/MED, ADC/MED, FSP, FW, IL, MED, and Retro MED should read this section.

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## General Interest and Mainframe

### PIN Letter (New)

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PIN letters will now be sent to those program case name persons in AABD/MED, ADC/MED (but not ADC/TMAG), CC, SSAD and SSAF who have not already received a PIN letter.

### MESA (Change)

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A modified COLA and modified FPL MESA run will occur on Saturday, January 15th in order to make budget adjustments for the Medicare Part B changes. Case selection will occur the night of Wednesday, January 12th. The usual COLA and FPL reports will run.

### Medicare Part B Buy-In Process (Change)

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Effective with the January 9, 2011 N-FOCUS Interim release, there will be changes to the Medicare Part B Buy-In process. The changes are being implemented as a result of direction received from the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS).

### Qualified Medicare Beneficiary - QMB (Change)

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Clarification has been received from the Federal government that Medicare Part B Buy-In for persons in the QMB category may not occur until the month after the month in which Medicaid eligibility is determined. Budgets for persons with a Medicare Part B expense the month of application and forward through the month of determination will have a person assistance code of AABD/OMB. Budgets for the month following the month of determination will have a person assistance code of AABD/QMB.

Example: Applicant applies for Medicaid January 3, 2011. The applicant has a Medicare Part B expense. The budget is processed February 1, 2011. The January and February budgets will show the person assistance code as OMB and no buy-in will occur for these months. The March budget will show the person assistance code as QMB. The State of Nebraska will begin paying the Medicare B premium effective March 1, 2011 (the month after the month of determination).

A special MESA will be run the weekend of January 15, 2011 to update the February 2011 budgets for those in the AABD/OMB category to AABD/QMB.

## Medically Needy – (Change)

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### *Group 1*

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Medicare Part B Buy-In for persons in the Medically Needy (MN) category was previously allowed if the net countable income was 135% of Federal Poverty Level or below. Clarification has been received from the Federal government that Buy-In can only occur for persons in the MN category up to 120% FPL. Budgets run after the January N-FOCUS Interim release for persons in the MN category with income above 120% will include the Medicare Part B expense as a share of cost adjustment. The State of Nebraska will stop paying the Medicare B expense effective February 2011.

Example: Ongoing customer has Medicaid with a spenddown. The person's countable income is \$1100 per month (above 120% FPL) but below \$1219 per month (135% FPL). The customer is currently receiving Medicare Part B Buy-In from the State of Nebraska. Effective February 2011, the customer will no longer receive Medicare Part B Buy-In from the State of Nebraska. The budget will allow the Medicare Part B expense as a Share of Cost adjustment.

A special MESA will be run the weekend of January 15, 2011 to update the February 2011 budgets for those in the MN category with income above 120% FPL.

### *Group 2*

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Persons in the MN category with income 100% FPL and below may not have retro buy-in (same rule as QMB). Buy-in may only occur the month after the month of determination. If the customer is paying the Medicare B expense, the expense will be included as a Share of Cost adjustment in the budget until the month following the month of determination. Nebraska will begin paying the Medicare Part B premium the month after the month of determination.

Example: A customer living in a nursing home applies for Medicaid on January 17, 2011. They applicant has an ongoing Medicare Part B expense. The budget is run February 18, 2011 approving Medicaid in the Medically Needy category effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The applicant's income is \$850 per month. Because this income is below 100% of Federal Poverty Level, there is no retro buy-in. The State of Nebraska will start paying the Medicare Part B premium effective March 1, 2011. The budget will include the expense as a Share of Cost adjustment in the months of January and February.

### *Group 3*

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Persons in the MN category with income 101%-120% FPL may have retro buy-in. The Medicare B expense will not be included as a Share of Cost adjustment in the budget and Nebraska will begin paying the Medicare Part B premium with the date of application.

Example: The applicant applies for Medicaid on January 17, 2011. The worker approves Medicaid with a spenddown on February 17, 2011. The applicant's income is \$1000 per month and there is a Medicare Part B expense. Because the applicant's income is between 101%-120% of Federal Poverty level, the State of Nebraska will pay the Medicare Part B premium effective January 2011.

### Create Interview Appointment Letter Window (Fix)

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All program cases that use the Interview Appointment Letter (ADC, AABD, MED, CC, SSAD, SSCF, EA and SNAP) will now appear for selection on the Create Interview Appointment Letter window. Previously not all program cases in the master case were appearing in the window.

### Application Management (Fix)

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### Tie Electronic Applications for Energy Assistance – LIHEAP (Fix)

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Electronic applications for Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) can now be tied to Emergency Assistance cases regardless of other programs applied for on the application.

### Tie an Application on the Last Day of the Month (Fix)

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Error messages have been received when an application that was set to close on the first of the following month was being tied on the last day of the month. This error has been fixed.

## **Correspondence**

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### Assigned Case Correspondence Contact Information (Fix)

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Correspondence generated for an Assigned case will display the telephone number that corresponds to the Assigned Office. Correspondence generated for a Universal Caseload case will display the ACCESSNebraska toll free telephone number.

## **Alerts**

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### Mail Received Alert (Change)

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The Mail Received alert will no longer be displayed on every Master Case in which the client is found. The alert will only post to every Master Case in which the client is active. When the client is active in one Master Case and closed in another Master Case the alert will only display in the active case.

If the client is only found in Closed Status the alert will display in the Master Case where the client was most recently closed.

### [Payment Alerts \(Change\)](#)

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Payment alerts, such as warrant returned and warrant cancelled, will create an Alerts Exist work task for universal cases.

### [Recertification Due Alert \(Change\)](#)

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The Recertification Due alert will no longer be created. If an Assigned Worker would like a list of their certifications that are due, this information can be obtained from the List Position Assignments window.

## **Work Tasks**

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### [Work Task Manager \(Change\)](#)

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If you have accessed a Master Case from the Work Task Manager and then need to go look at a different case, you no longer have to back out of open N-FOCUS windows in order to access the new Master Case.

### [Duplicate Work Tasks Created \(Fix\)](#)

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Duplicate Work Tasks have been inadvertently created when a worker navigated from the Detail Work Task window. This has been fixed.

### [New Case Work Task \(Change\)](#)

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The 'New Case' Work Task has been renamed. It will now be call the 'Application Received – Interview Not Needed' Work Task. This work task will be directed to Processing since an interview is not needed.

### [Interview Needed Work Tasks \(Change\)](#)

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The 'Interview Needed' and the 'Interview Needed-Expedited SNAP' Work Tasks can now be created manually.

Previously workers created a Worker Alert if the Mode was manually changed to Interviewing, this practice will no longer need to be done. The 'Interview Needed' and 'Interview Needed – Expedites SNAP' Work Tasks will be created instead.

## **Mode**

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### [Transferring EA Case in Pending Status to UC \(Change\)](#)

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EA Case that is in Pending Status will not be allowed to be transferred to the Universal Caseload until the case has been acted upon. An error message will display.

## **Expert System**

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### **Medical Transportation Mileage Expense Rate (Change)**

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The Medical Transportation Mileage expense rate has been increased from \$.50 to \$.51 effective 01/11/11 for budgets run for January, 2011 and later.

### **Medicare Savings Program Resource Limits (Change)**

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Effective January 1, 2011, there was an increase in the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) resource limits. The new limits are be \$6,680 for an individual and \$10,020 for a couple. This resource change pertains to MSP/QMB, SLMB, and QI categories.